

We wish to express our opinions about 2 of the 4 main questions:

*1. Why is it in Australia's interest to have a viable, internationally competitive health and medical research sector?*

The economic benefits to Australia of health and medical research have been well documented by the 2011 Deloitte Access Economics report. However, we strongly believe that the value of medical research extends beyond considerations such as economic benefits and productivity gains generated by good health. As teaching and research academics, we try and encourage our undergraduate and postgraduate students to be curious and to give them some sense of the joys and often unexpected outcomes of new discoveries. The brightest of our graduates should not have to emigrate to pursue a career in biomedical research.

*2. How might health and medical research be best managed and funded in Australia?*

We think that health and medical research funding is best managed by the NHMRC. It is important that the academics involved in teaching medical, biomedical science and science students are actively involved in research. Therefore, funding for biomedical research should include university departments as well as medical research institutes. We support a system where funding of project grants continues to form a significant part of the total medical research budget.